



Esprit de Corps

A bulletin of the Washington Service Corps

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WSC Ready*Reserve deploys to New Orleans, earns praise of Mayor

The Washington Service Corps' newest project, Ready*Reserve made it's first deployment in January, 2006. Made up of volunteers from other WSC projects, the nine member team spent three weeks in the New Orleans area. Primarily serving at a food bank warehouse in New Orleans, the members also volunteered on numerous projects throughout the southern Louisiana area.

The Honorable Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans, stopped by to thank the members. Pages 4 and 5 of this issue features photos and a reflection on the Ready*Reserve team's activities in Louisiana.



Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans (center) takes a moment's break with the WSC Ready*Corps team during a neighborhood clean-up project in the Gentilly section of New Orleans.

Carlson Honored for Katrina Response

The WSC's Scott Carlson received the prestigious "Extra Mile Award" from the Washington State Productivity Board. Given to only 13 state employees during 2006, Scott was recognized for his leadership in putting together the Washington Service Corps' Ready*Reserve team for the Katrina Hurricane clean-up.

Responding to a call from the Corporation for National and

Community Service (CNCS) to support relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Scott jumped at the chance to serve. Taking the lead, he quickly created a logical plan, despite



Scott Carlson

lack of a national service program model from which to draw. Scott proficiently coordinated with multiple agencies, including FEMA, CNCS, and the local New Orleans project site.

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Assessment Matters

A note from



Nancy Pringle,
WSC Director

The Washington Service Corps' (WSC) parent agency in state government, the Employment Security Department (ESD), has joined in Governor Christine Gregoire's efforts for greater government accountability. One of the primary tools for doing this is called the Government Management, Accountability, and Performance (GMAP) program. The heart of GMAP is regular

presentations to leadership up the chain of command, including the governor.

All that is fine and good, but what does it mean to you, an AmeriCorps member serving in a school or a non-profit agency, many miles from Olympia?

We ask a lot of your supervisors in the areas of planning performance, tracking progress, and reporting outcomes. Those requests trickle down in some measure to you. You report on your activities and those are collated with your fellow corpsmembers and reported to the WSC. The data you report can be an important part of our preparation for a GMAP presentation.

Preparation for GMAP sessions provides an

opportunity to sit down together to study and analyze data and to make better decisions about how to serve you and your communities. The effectiveness of the reviews and discussions are related to the effectiveness (or lack of effectiveness) of information we receive from the field.

There are three key factors in this tool: Accountability, Performance and Communication. How are these related to each other? As one of my mentors says "Consider this equation: accountability equals performance plus communication."

One of the primary challenges facing AmeriCorps and other great government efforts is proving great work is being done. You do

great work, but without data we are not able to tell the story.

The WSC will be taking an even more aggressive performance-based approach to service. We will focus activities on the results that matter to people. We will align projects to those priorities. We will use performance measures to tell us if we are making progress toward the priorities. Not only will this result in improved accountability, these efforts will increase the trust the public places in us and in you.

The work you are doing, the data you gather, the reports you fill out - they do go somewhere and they are used. Thanks for your service this year. It is my sincere hope that you have had a meaningful experience.



OIC of Washington members involved in service projects. Members from the Circle of Success and Empowerment projects trim roses in the Grandview City Garden. Members from the OIC Construction team on a cement pour with Habitat for Humanity.

Spokane Schools Stage SERT Rodeo

By Susan Williams

Thirty-four students from six Spokane middle schools participated as first responders in an emergency preparedness disaster drill to practice fire suppression, medical operations and search and rescue skills. Fifteen volunteers played the part of victims, many of them were siblings, parents, and other students from the middle schools. Guest speakers included Spokane Mayor Dennis Hession, City Council members Nancy McLaughlin and Brad Stark, and legislative representatives Timm Ormsby, Lynn Schindler and John Serben.

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) Disaster Drill Rodeo took place Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the City Fire Training Center. The Ready*Corps VISTA team of Spokane Public Schools, in partnership with the Spokane County

Grants from State Farm Insurance and Learn and Serve America, through the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided emergency rescue supplies for SERT students.

Sheriff's Office and the Spokane Fire Department, has been working with Spokane middle school students, getting them ready for the drill.

Students came out to practice their skills with the Ready*Corps VISTA

members who had been training them since November. They donned helmets, gloves, reflective vests, and safety goggles to put out fires under the watchful eye of professional fire



Under the watchful eye of a Spokane firefighter, a SERT trained student extinguishes a Class-B fire during the SERT Rodeo.

fighters. They went into a pitch-black rooms at the Fire Training Center to search for victims. They worked as a team to assess and treat 15 victims who were pretending to be dead, in shock, with broken bones, or other injuries. They did this with all the pride and professionalism you would expect from well trained, mature young adults.

When a disaster strikes Spokane, the first responders can be stretched very thin. They can count on these talented students to help themselves, their families and their communities.

Ready*corps



Middle School students trained by AmeriCorps members and evaluated by Professional Emergency Response Personnel showed off their skills to the Mayor and a host of others in the first Spokane School District Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) Rodeo.

Washington Service Corps



Headlines Tell the Story

The progression of headlines from the **New Orleans Times-Picayune** tells a story of crisis, of a city in need. Knowing help would be needed, the Washington Service Corps (WSC) began planning as the 2005-2006 AmeriCorps members from across the state applied for this extra duty and in January of 2006, nine members arrived. Serving 21 days, the ad-hoc team known as the WSC Ready*Reserve, accomplished their mission by serving at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans. Not content to do just one thing, the group also helped with cleanup. Here is part of the story from the journal of **Carolyn Jordan**, a WSC AmeriCorps member serving in New Orleans.



Life in Camp

Minutes after arriving at Louis Armstrong International Airport, we were off to "Tent City" in the Algiers section of the city, located in the 15th ward, on the right bank of Orleans Parish (county). The Algiers Camp was a self-contained installation which included a 24-hour Red Cross trailer, washer/dryers, showers, Porta-Potty's, wash stations, a mess tent with meals prepared three times a day, a recreation tent and five sleeping tents for 350 persons each. Volunteers from all over America would come for a week or more. They rebuilt roofs, added blue tarps, were part of the chain saw gang in cleaning streets and homes, and offered personal reflection to all who asked.



The Clean-up Begins

We gutted a home in the neighborhood where the 17th Street Canal levee broke. Upon opening the door you are hit by the stench of 15 feet of water that sat for over two months as the water receded. Inside, the mold and mildew crept up the walls to the second floor. We took everything out, down to the bare stud walls. The furniture, carpets, walls and insulation all had to go. In the kitchen, cabinets were filled with 50 years worth of personal belongings. A china set with sewage water still in the bowls and glasses; pots and pans of every kind; cabinets filled with food; a full refrigerator—appliances too; it all spent several weeks under water and there was no saving anything. 80% of the homes in this city of a half million were just like this one. This cannot be the work of one small group of nine AmeriCorps members, but the work of a nation.



despair, and of hope.
2006 program year began.
were selected for the deployment.
main mission
group took on additional challenges.
living in Ferry County.



Witness to the Devastation

We traveled to various parishes and witnessed first hand the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. We visited the levee in Jefferson Parish and saw homes with huge oak trees landing on rooftops. All homes were marked with dates of entry, deaths (animals and humans), and rescue team IDs. Peeking inside the flooded home, we could understand the devastation in seeing personal effects filled with mud and silt. What walls were left were covered with mold and mildew. Cars were deposited everywhere and rusting from the inside out from water damage. Homes closest to the levee were ripped from their foundations and landed near or on other homes. Automobiles were in trees or turned upside down.

South of New Orleans

Whole homes and churches were moved from their foundations, some several feet, some many miles. Shrimp boats, fishing boats and commercial barges were literally picked up and hauled inland as proof that nature prevails. It left no doubt what 20 feet of water can do. Shells of homes, mobile homes, wrecked cars and trucks lined the highway. American Red Cross Emergency Relief Vehicles were feeding the contractors, volunteers, and families left with no other source of water or food. Schools lay in silence, waiting for the sound of childrens laughter. Several cemeteries along the route were severely damaged. Some crypts lay cracked and open, exposed to the elements, awaiting their turn to be put back to rest.

Populations Displaced

Before Hurricane Katrina struck on August 29, 2005, the population of New Orleans was more than 484,000 people. Six months later only a third of the population could return.

Over 30,000 residents occupied Plaquemines Parish with its miles and miles of coastline. Fewer than half have returned.

Devastation hit its ultimate high in the upper and lower 9th ward. The floods destroyed over a century of homes, many built by freed slaves. These homes housed a population of over 65,000 people. 11,000 have returned.

Three Term Member Keeps on Serving



Marianne Dutton

Marianne Dutton is a rare sight in AmeriCorps, a member so dedicated that she serves three terms.

Marianne is serving as a VISTA with the East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council, whose office is located in Spokane.

The Council serves nine Eastern Washington counties, as well as the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response (PHEPR) Region 9. Marianne works directly with 68 EMS agencies, 19 hospitals, and the Washington State Department of Health. Recently, Marianne organized the East Region EMS tri-annual conference,

which was held in Spokane. About 125 emergency medical responders from Washington and Idaho attended the three-day event. It featured continuing education classes on topics such as setting up an injury prevention program, chemical weapons, lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, and meth drug lab ID. The event was a great success.

One project that Marianne has been working on over the course of her three years as a VISTA has been the management of the Rural Access to Emergency Devices (RAED) Grant Program. This program distributes Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to the rural areas of the state. Since Marianne has been managing this process, the Council has placed 67 AEDs throughout the East Region.

Another project Marianne has been coordinating is monthly video-conference meetings for the Council and the bio-terrorism program. Use of the video-conferencing system is donated by Inland Northwest Health Services, and links 22 rural hospitals and emergency medical responders so that they can participate in live, interactive meetings without having to travel.

The Red Cross also benefits from Marianne's skills and enthusiasm. She recently became a member of a Disaster Action Team (DAT), which responds to local emergencies. Marianne is interested in pursuing a career in emergency management, and has been able to gain a lot of valuable experience through her service.

New Projects for 2006/07

The Corporation for National Service announced the Washington Service Corps has received approval for 400 members for the 2006-2007 program year (Reading Corps and Ready*Corps are separate grants not included in this total). The WSC will add several new teams and Individual Placement sites for the 2006-2007 program year.

New Teams

- Northwest Leadership Foundation — Tacoma
- Tacoma Housing Authority
- Yakima Parks and Recreation
- Habitat for Humanity — East King County
- Rural Resources (Stevens County)
- Seattle Youth Garden Works

New IP Sites

- Clarkston School District
- Second Harvest Tri-Cities
- Washington Initiative for Supported Employment

- Girl Scouts - Totem Council
- Global Visionaries
- Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens (Seattle)
- The Center for Wooden Boats
- World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP)
- Seattle Children's PlayGarden
- The Wilderness Technology Alliance
- Eastern Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Heritage University
- Nature Conservancy
- Passages NorthWest
- Metro Parks — Tacoma
- Skagit Land Trust
- Slum Doctor Programme
- Selah Parks and Recreation
- Disability Resources

Congressman Visits Reading Corps School

U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings (Rep. 4th District) took time out of his busy schedule this past February to visit the Washington Reading Corps (WRC) program at Keene Riverview Elementary in Prosser.

While touring the WRC program Congressman Hastings not only got to see volunteers and WRC members in action but he also took time to tutor one lucky young student. "Probably my

favorite moment from the afternoon was watching the young student explain to Congressman Hastings how to log the tutoring time on her tacking sheet. It was priceless," acknowledged Key Area Coordinator Kurt Reeser.

When he finished tutoring he then spoke to the



Congressman Hastings takes time to visit with AmeriCorps members Marina Partida (L) and Jessica Morfin (R).



Congressman Hastings listens as a young reader shows her skills.

class about the importance of reading and presented the class with a new children's book. At the end of his visit Congressman Hastings took time to meet with the AmeriCorps members and have an informal question and answer session with the

members and program staff.

It was an excellent opportunity for Congressman Hastings to learn first hand what AmeriCorps, and the Washington Reading Corps in particular, is all about. "We were so excited that Doc Hastings visited our site. I hope he was impressed with Reading Corps," reflected WRC member Marina Partida.

Rural Lyman Connects With Urban Youth

by **Chelsea McRaven**

At the October SERVES conference I attended the "Free Stuff" seminar led by Thomas Goldstein and learned that there is endless support out there that can be tapped into if we network. Thomas is executive director of The Service Board (TSB), an organization in Seattle for disengaged teenage youth.

I am a WRC AmeriCorps member at Lyman Elementary, located along the North Cascades Highway in Skagit County. I contacted Thomas for advice on how to get support for Lyman and the good things that are happening here.

Two students, their parents and I

spent a Sunday in Seattle and met TSB teens to share about Lyman. The teens took information about

Lyman's location, budget, demographics and the need for WRC out to their friends, families, and local businesses to spread awareness, fundraise, and gather supplies for our program.

Bridging the gap one step further, we began a pen pal relationship with each of our Lyman WRC students



and the TSB teens. The look our kids gave as pop-up origami frogs and "Where the Wild Things Are" monsters jumped from the pages of their pen

pal's letters brought anticipation and an eager desire to communicate with these teens, native to lands as far away as the Philippines, Vietnam and Spokane!

Combining writing skills, cultural awareness and service, this collaboration with TSB has been encouraging to the WRC program.

Washington State Employment Security

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Washington State
SERVICE CORPS



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The WSC was created by the Washington State Legislature in 1983 to provide residents of the state of Washington with opportunities to serve their communities. The WSC assists private non-profit organizations and units of local government in addressing community needs and providing meaningful service experiences.

Since 1992, the WSC has been a key player in the national service movement that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that lights the darkness in communities across the nation. AmeriCorps members perform service that has direct and demonstrable impact in the areas of education, the environment, human services, homeland security, and public safety.

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NEWS FLASH!!

Education award vouchers are mailed about 45 days after you terminate, to the address on your Exit Form. Interest accrual forms are mailed with the Ed Award voucher. Double check your address.



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